#### OUR PARIS LETTER.

THE PROPOSITION TO ERROY A STATUS TO VOL-PAIRE-THE DISCUSSION TO WHICH IT HAS GIVEN RISE-THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION-DISCUSSION UPON THE POLICY OF THE EMPEROR—THE ORIENTAL QUESTION-ROME, ETC.

EVENING TELEGRAPH SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE. Paris, February 4. Voltaire.

The proposition to organize a subscription for the purpose of raising a statue to Voltaire has given rise to a very sharp discussion in the Paris press, some of the journals opposing the proposed measure in the strongest terms. The Pays, an organ of the Bonaparte dynasty, in a long article, says that Voltaire was a defamer of the popular classes, speaking of them with the greatest contempt. As a citizen, he eulogized all the Ministers who succeeded each other under Louis XV, and likewise all the King's mistresses. He, in fact, laid his incense in turn at the feet of Fleury, Barnis, Richelieu, Maupeon, Choiseul, and Turgot. He adulated the pure and virtuous Queen Maria Lecksniska, and almost in the same breath Madame de Pompadour, and afterwards Madame Du Barry. It is true that among his intimate acquaintances he made up for the sycophancy of his adulations by the abusive bitterness of his mockery. A certain school of casuists has been reproached with its doctrine of mental reservation; but what can be said of Voltaire? For three years (1759, 1760, and [1761) he was in correspondence with King Stanislaus, who, wrote he to Marmoutel, "has sent me a letter of the kindest description," etc. "The King," he said to Thiriat, "has sent me his book. I enclose you my answer; see if it is not favorable." And nearly at the same time, again communicating with Thirlat, he treated King Stanislaus as ,a fool, getting up silly books by the aid of his Secretary, an ex-Jesuit. As a patriot, he was still worse. France was engaged in the unfortunate "Seven Years' War." At that time, so full of humiliation and disasters for France, what was the game of Voltaire! This one:-He inflamed Choiseul against the King of Prussia. The King wrote a satire against the Minister, and the very first thing Voltaire did was to show it to the latter. On the other side, he swore to the King that he had never breathed a word concerning the matter to any one, whilst at the same time he advised Choiseul not to treat with the King. To the latter he wrote; -"Your verses are charming; and if your Majesty has beaten your enemies, they become still better." We must not forget that the enemies alluded to are the French, those unfortunate victims of the ignorance of Court generals, named by the favor of the King's mistresses, heads of the army and Marshals of France. Is it really necessary to draw money from one's purse to glorify such reminiscences? The majority of the Parisian papers are of opinion that it is not necessary to honor such a person by a sort of national manifestation. They say he was carried to the Pantheon; that surely is enough, if not too much.

marks on the late changes in the Constitution. Several of them, during the last few days, have been carrying on a rather animated discussion respecting the merits of the Ministers to whom the Emperor has given or continued his confidence, and those whom he might have chosen in preference. The public of France will have some difficulty in taking any interest in such

The Changes in the Constitution.

The Paris journals still continue their re-

a dispute. Nobody cares much whether the policy of the Emperor is defended before the Chambers by statesmen long in office, by friends of the second degree, who have passed into the first category, or by former adversaries, suddenly touched by grace on the way to the Tuileries. In reality, as well as in theory, it will be the policy of the sovereign alone which they will come to defend before the Senators and the Deputies. We therefore believe that those discussions as to proper names, maintained by certain journals, are not

worthy of the attention of any except the few men who find an amusement in conferring, withdrawing, maintaining, or retaining portfolios.

The Oriental Question.

In perusing the European journals, one would suppose that war was on the point of breaking out. The European press teems with incorrect statements, forged facts, and false judgments. Because a portion of the Cretan population has risen in insurrection, the conclusion is jumped at that Turkey in Europe is threatened with a general conflagration. If the Greeks were more numerous, the bursting forth of this fire might alarm the Porte; but as they are in a minority, a rising in Thessaly and Epirus could only be disastrous to the populations of those two provinces. People seem to have forgotten that there are between the Black Sea and the Adriatic six millions of Bulgarians, irreconcilable enemies of the Greeks and devoted subjects of the Ottoman Empire. Unless a foreign power should declare war against the Sultan, Turkey has nothing to fear; and if an attack should be made from without, the allies of the Porte would do what they have already done. A thousand fallacious rumors are again in circulation respecting the insurrection in Candia.

Rome. Our correspondent writes us that a report was current in that city of the intention of the Pontifical Government to effect reforms, partly in conformity with the Emperor Napoleon's well-known letter to General Ney. The first of these measures is said to be the reorganization of a civil guard, and the second the formation of a secular Ministry. The same advices state that those reforms have been asked for from the Pope by the chief Roman aristocracy, headed by Prince Mark Antony Borghese.

The Imperial Library.

ceived several important donations from various hands. The Emperor has presented it with the original MS, of Humboldt's "Cosmos:" The Empress has sent a Hebrew Old Testament, written on vellum, as stated some time ago; from the Societé Asiatique the Library has received 324 MSS. in Carnool, written on palm leaves; a manuscript in the language of Thibet; a Sanscrit manuscript in the Dacanagari characters; and valuable papers, once the property of M. Ariel, a French agent in the East Indies; Dr. Clot-Bey has sent ten manuscripts in Arabic and Turkish, and twenty-three others in Arabic alone.

#### THE FASHIONS.

The Reception at the Tulleries and Dresses Worn at Court-A Novelty or Nothing-Costume of the Empress-The Prevailing Colors-New Style of Hats-Cut of Sleeves-Diamonds, Feathers, and Bands, Etc.

Paris, February 1.—The event of the week the second reception at the Tuileries. Three housand invitations were given out, and the three thousand attended, in the richest toilets. All the gentlemen wore tight silk stockings, ending in a buckled shoe. Their leggings, or culottes, are made of white cloth, and the tails and collars of their coats worked with gold.

The shade of the coat is blue. The enumeration of the ladies' dresses would be but a repetition of the fashions I have described since the opening of the sea-The great feature was satin, which is made à fourreau, with the most extravagant lengths of train. A little oval front piece, under the waistband, not larger than the width of two hands, and which I should call an apron, if it were large enough, is the great novelty. No one knows what it is meant for, nor its origin: no one says it is pretty, but all call it chic, and that is supposed to mean something enviable in our degenerate idiom. There were oceans of snowy white organdies worked with floss silk and gold; plenty of plain tulles covered with white ruche and vaporous underskirts, entirely without any other trimming beyond pearl-head lace. All were flat in front, and there were velvet and satin bodies with basques cut in one, very low, either round or square. The low chemisette is pleated and

edged with an insertion and valenciennes. As I have frequently said, sleeves are mere bands—a puff, or anything that will trim round an arm-hole. A pretty dress I did ad-mire, because it contrasted with the gorgeous glitter around me. It was made of tarlatan, cut in three flat skirts, which were sawn in the waist like flounces in the old school. The bottom of each was scolloped round wide and lined with pink tarlatan, which gave the dress a rosy appearance. The back of the skirt was ornamented only with a long sash, which widened gradually till it became a train at the bottom. Both flounces and sash were bordered with slightly twisted pink and white. The sleeves were a la juice like wings. The head dress was a cordon of apple blossoms. The Empress were a yellow satin robe, trimmed with bouillons of tulle, under which shone forth diamonds in flowers. She had a diadem of the same in her hair. The Imperial family entered the Salle des Maréchaux at nine o'clock, and advanced straight to the throne chairs, between rows of standing and courtesying guests. To the right of the Empress there sat Prince Napoleon, to the left of the Emperor Princess Mathilda. The ladies of the palace, ambassadresses, etc., took seats around their Majesties, all according to rank and station. At twelve they rose and walked through the different reception rooms, after which they entered the Galerie de Diane and

supped.

After supper they retired, but the ball was kept up till three in the morning. Emeralds are the favorite jewels this season green silk is also in great demand. The great dea is to wear a larger quantity of bead and jet embroidery around waistbands on afternoon dresses; some end in very long glass bead fringe. Black poult de soie waistbands with square basquines, Vandykes, and folly points

are fanciful trimmings. Never was foulard so much sought after as t is now, and no fashion can be more welcome. It is as pretty as satin, and not half so expensive; it is made in the loveliest shades, of which the following are the prettiest at night:—Primrose, wallflower, Parme violet, roseleaf, and pea-green. When cleaned they look like new, when creased they are ironed, when stained they can be washed.

Feathers and feather bands are and will be fashionable for some time to come. Striped silks are trimmed with plaited ribbon, entablier, and round the bottom; crape plaits are much worn round bonnets and left to hang entwined with flowers. I cannot admire them. Our spring bonnets will either be very flat or all "Bolivar" shape—high up in the air, like coal scuttles, and flat behind.

The prettiest hat will be Ceres, a kind of Watteau, trimmed with bunches of brown berries in a garland of frosted leaves, tied on with maize or straw-colored strings. Bonnet strings will be narrow.

### THE SUNDAY CAR QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Evening Telegraph:-Sir:-As you have opened your columns to an earnest opponent of Sunday car travel ("W." in your issue of 14th inst.), the presumption is that a brief note, taking a different view, will be as courteously received, particularly as the writer claims all that "W." can, in the interest of public morals and good order.

At the outset, Mr. Editor, your correspondent would most vigorously protest against "W.'s" assumption, that those who would use the cars on Sunday are either foreigners, or whisky drinkers to a greater extent than on other days: indeed, the reverse can easily be proven by persons who habitually used them when they did run on Sundays, or by application to the drivers and conductors-not over-willing witnesses, certainly. The reason for this "W." himself gives, unintentionally, when he speaks of the number of drinking establishments throughout the city. It doesn't look reasonable that men should pay to ride a long distance to the suburbs for the privilege of getting intoxicated, when in the very heart of the city one can throw a stone from almost any doorstep, and break the windows of a bar-room in full swing, the Sabbath though it may be. Had "W." noticed, as the subscriber has, the proportion of women and children—chiefly, it is granted, of the poorer classes—who patronized the cars on pleasant Sundays, he would see at once the fallacy of his position. Generally speaking, it is not the men who carouse and get drunk that need them; and it is doubted if a single instance of lawlessness can be mentioned, chargeable to the running of the cars on Sundays, that might not have occurred had they not been. The Imperial Library in Paris has just re-

Indeed, the use made of cars directly to the advantage of religion will recur to every one who has ever attended service at Beecher's or Cuyler's churches in Brooklyn, or Chapin's or Tyng's in New York. Ask the members, or, if "W." prefers, the pastors themselves of these churches, if they would abolish car running on Sundays, and then consider how very much more extended is our own city than either. All people have a choice of churches, it they are church members at all, and if there exists convenient and cheap communication by their doors, they have no excuse for remain-ing at home during service, be they ever so far off, or the weather ever so inclement. Of course, Mr. Editor, speaking in behalf of the great middle class of the community, there is no argument here for those who can afford to live where they please, and are able to main-tain an establishment independent of their neighbors. These points were suggested by the tender solicitude "W." expresses for the morals of the community.

Touching the right of the people to decide the whole question by ballot, is where he most wounds the pride and manhood of our citizens. A purely local matter, the Legislature would have no right to refuse to listen to their overwhelming verdict. With intelligence enough to vote right on political matters, they can as safely be trusted to decide questions affecting either their convenience or morals. What do men, who, many of them, until they were sent to Harrisburg, never saw a town larger than their county seat, know of the needs of the second city in the Union? And what kind of an argument is it, that indivi-duals may be enriched by legislation that affects the welfare of all? Suppose the general law of the State is in the way; if so, let the voice of the city be heard by the Legislature, and if their local necessities clash against Puritanic laws, let them not submit without at least right sturdy protests.

As a rule, those who distrust the people are not the ones to legislate for them, or to pass on what is for their good; and if the citizens of Philadelphia should decide in favor of their streets being used for their own accommodation on Sundays as well as week days, the power should not exist that gainsays them. If "W." remembers that in an election all citizens are privileged to vote who have paid their taxes, the extent of his slander of their good name is seen when he says that—"Should a vote be ordered in this city, it would be decided by the vicious and depraved." No less is it an insult by the Legislature to submit the matter to the Committee on Vice and Immorality, for the question is one raised as much in the interest of intelligence and progressive Christianity, and agitated as much by those having the public weal at heart, as by the troublesome foreigners and brewers that seem so to haunt the mind of "W.;" and though opposed now by all the eloquence and power of narrow-minded sectarianism, not to mention the purses of liverystable keepers, Sunday car travel will continue to be a popular necessity; and although declared unlawful, through a legal technicality, the time must come when it cannot be said with so much truth of Philadelphia, that "The day is sacred, but man is vile"-and it will as surely come as some other innovations that the Church has gone out of its way to

### GOVERNMENT SALES.

LARGE SALE OF ARMY CLOTHING DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, BALTIMORE Md., February 6, 1867. ]
Will be sold at Public Auction, in the city
of Faitimore (at Government Storehouse, No.
120 S. EUTAW Street), on WEDNESDAY, 12
M., February 27, 1867, a lot of
ARMY CLOTHING,

consisting of 8478 NEW YORK JACKETS, of irregular pattern, and otherwise unsuited for issue to troops.

By reason of its long retention in store, the material is in some instances more or less damaged.
Sale will take place in lots to suit purchasers. Terms-Cash in Government funds, on day of

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January 30, 1867. S Will be sold at Public Auction, at the port of Baltimore (Henderson's Wharf, East Balti-more), on THURSDAY, 12 M., February 28,

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She is of light draught, the engine and boiler are in most excellent condition, and the hull perfectly sound and strong.
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ber dozen.

Linen Bird-Eye for Children's Aprons, 40, 50, 625,
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Scotch Disper by the piece, very cheap.

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7-4 Bleached Table Linens, 90c, per yard,

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Ard, Linen Table Cloths, 2½ yards long, \$2.50, A large assortment Shirting Linens, Heavy Honsewife Linens.

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cheap.
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